

AK

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/923,149	TANKERSLEY, STEVEN C.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Irakli Kiknadze	2882	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/19/2004.
 2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18 and 20-22.
 3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 August 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
 4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

IK

DETAILED ACTION

1. In response to the Office action dated February 20, 2004 the Response pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.111 has been received May 19, 2004.

Claims 1-18 and 20-22 are currently pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments, see pages 7-11, filed May 19, 2004, with respect to claims 1-18 and 20-22 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejection of claims 1-18 and 20-22 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-18 and 20-22 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-7 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a radiographic imager having a measuring device for determining the distance between an x-ray source and an image receptor associated with the radiographic imager, comprising: a circuit connected to a radiated signal source and a detector, the circuit operative to determine the travel time of a radiated signal between the x-ray source and the image receptor, and thereby determine the distance between the x-ray source and the image receptor as claimed in claim 1. Claims 2-7 are allowable by virtue of their dependence.

Claims 8 and 9 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a method of determining the distance between an x-ray source and an image receptor associated with a radiographic imager, comprising projecting and detecting a radiated signal from one of the x-ray source or the image receptor associated with said radiographic imager, and determining the distance between the x-ray source and image receptor based on the travel time of the radiated signal as claimed in claim 8. Claim 9 is allowed by virtue of its dependence.

Claims 10-16, 21 and 22 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a radiographic imager, comprising: a collimator housing containing a radiation beam source; and a measuring device operative to directly determine the distance between the collimator housing and an image receptor by calculating the travel time of a radiated signal directed from a radiated signal source to a detector as claimed in claim 10. Claims 11-16, 21 and 22 are allowable by virtue of their dependence.

Claims 17, 18 and 20 are allowed because prior art fails to teach or make obvious a radiographic imager, comprising: a radiated signal source for directly determining the distance between an image receptor and an x-ray source as claimed in claim 17. Claims 20 and 21 are allowable by virtue of their dependence.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Irakli Kiknadze whose telephone number is 571-272-2493. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00- 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on 571-272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



**DAVID V. BRUCE
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

Irakli Kiknadze
August 23, 2003

